

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A laser capture microdissection method, comprising:
 - providing a sample that is to undergo laser capture microdissection;
 - positioning said sample on a translation stage of a laser capture microdissection instrument and within an optical axis of said laser capture microdissection instrument, said translation stage including a vacuum chuck having a beam path hole through which said optical axis extends;
 - holding a sample holder in a position over said beam path hole, said sample being located upon said sample holder;
 - providing a transfer film carrier having a substrate surface and a laser capture microdissection transfer film coupled to said substrate surface;
 - placing said laser capture microdissection transfer film in juxtaposition with said sample with a pressure sufficient to allow laser capture microdissection transfer of a portion of said sample to said laser capture microdissection transfer film, without forcing nonspecific transfer of a remainder of said sample to said laser capture microdissection film; and then
 - transferring a portion of said sample to said laser capture microdissection transfer film, without forcing nonspecific transfer of a remainder of said sample to said laser capture microdissection transfer film.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising translating said sample holder with regard to said translation stage when a vacuum is engaged wherein there is a leakage between said sample holder and said translation stage adapted to control a force holding said sample holder in place.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein holding a sample holder in said position over said beam path hole includes holding said sample holder with a force and modulating said force.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising pulling a vacuum on said sample holder.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising applying a force to an edge of said sample holder to move said sample holder with regard to said translation stage.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising moving said sample holder in any direction parallel with a top surface of said translation stage without constraint.

7-28 (Cancelled)

29. (Original) A laser capture microdissection method, comprising:
 - providing a sample that is to undergo laser capture microdissection;
 - positioning said sample on a translation stage of a laser capture microdissection instrument and within an optical axis of said laser capture microdissection instrument, said translation stage having a beam path hole through which said optical axis extends;
 - holding a sample holder in a position over said beam path hole, said sample being located upon said sample holder;
 - providing a transfer film carrier having a substrate surface and a laser capture microdissection transfer film coupled to said substrate surface;
 - placing said laser capture microdissection transfer film in juxtaposition with said sample to allow laser capture microdissection transfer of a portion of said sample to said laser capture microdissection transfer film, without forcing nonspecific transfer of a remainder of said sample to said laser capture microdissection film; and
 - transferring a portion of said sample to said laser capture microdissection transfer film, without forcing nonspecific transfer of a remainder of said sample to said laser capture microdissection transfer film.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further including the step of placing said laser capture microdissection transfer film in juxtaposition with said sample with sufficient pressure to allow transfer of a portion of said sample to said laser capture microdissection transfer film,

without forcing nonspecific transfer of a remainder of said sample to said laser capture microdissection film.

31. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the translation stage includes a vacuum chuck.